

SN. 09/559,857

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CANO:006

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 16-18 are now pending in this application for which applicant seeks reconsideration.

Amendment

Non-elected claims 6-15 and 19-37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Remaining independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clearly set forth the condition for copying the thumbnail images. No new matter has been introduced.

Art Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Yamauchi (USP 6,020,982), and claims 1, 3, 4, 16, and 18 were rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by Schelling (USP 5,706,097). Finally, claims 2, 5, and 17 were rejected under § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schelling. Applicant submits that the amended claims obviate these rejections because none of the applied references would have taught detecting the size of the thumbnail images and copying the thumbnail images from one storage medium to another based on the detected size thereof.

Claims 1 and 16 each call for detecting the size of thumbnail images stored in a storage medium and copying the thumbnail images from the storage medium into storage means if the size of the thumbnail images in the storage medium corresponds to a predetermined size, for managing the images copied into the storage means.

Yamauchi discloses an image processing system that includes a plurality of data recording media, namely memory cards 1 and 2, HDD 819, MO 820, and DDD 821 for storing digital video and audio data. Yamauchi's system controller or CPU 625 can read the images from the recording medium and scale down the images to the desired size. Yamauchi, however, does not disclose or teach the condition for copying the reduced size images. That is, Yamauchi does not disclose or teach detecting the size of the reduced images from one recording medium, and then copying the reduced images from the one recording medium to another if the reduced

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images meet the predetermined size requirement. Such a feature is entirely missing in Yamauchi. Accordingly, applicant submits that Yamauchi would not have anticipated or rendered obvious the invention set forth in claims 1 and 16 within the meaning of §§ 102, 103.

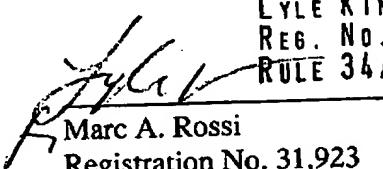
Schelling similarly would not have disclosed or taught the reduced image size detecting feature set forth in claims 1 and 16. Specifically, Schelling discloses a system for forming an index print containing thumbnail images. The index print is formed by selecting the desired frames from the motion picture sequences and saving those frames such as in a PICT format. Schelling does not disclose or teach that the medium, from which still images from the motion picture sequences are obtained, contains thumbnail images. Indeed, Schelling merely discloses forming thumbnail images from still frames without any reference to the copying condition. That is, Schelling does not disclose or teach copying thumbnail images from one medium to another based on the thumbnail image size. Accordingly, Schelling would not have anticipated or taught the invention set forth in claims 1 and 16.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-5 and 16-18 patentably distinguish over the applied references and thus urges the examiner to issue an early Notice of Allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicant urges the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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